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1. The replacement of General Ludwig Svoboda by Dr. Alexei Cepicka as Minister of National Defense ushered in a purge of the Czech army during which time many high-ranking officers were replaced by persons whom the party considered to be politically reliable. Some of the officers who now hold important posts and who will probably be influential in making future army policy are:
  - a. General Jaroslav Prochazka replaced General Simon Drgac as chief of staff. Prochazka, a doctor of jurisprudence and former chief of the Army Education Service, has long wielded political power in the army, but he was never a staff officer before his appointment as chief of staff. He joined the Czech army in the USSR during the last war as a reserve officer in the Quarter-master Corps.
  - b. General Karel Stuchly is responsible for the future reorganization of the army. A fanatical Communist like the rest of his family, he was formerly chief of staff of the 1st Military District and was promoted to the rank of general in 1948. Quiet, efficient, and intelligent, he is one of the most capable leaders in the present army.
  - c. General Zuzka was former chief of the "Research Section" of G-2. His present assignment is unknown.
  - d. Colonel Sacher of the General Staff Corps is a favorite of President Gottwald and can be expected to have a brilliant future. A military theoretician, he is still a division commander and will very likely be recalled to the General Staff soon.
  - e. Colonel Rytir (formerly Ritter), Commanding Officer of the 13th Inf Div at Karlovy Vary, is not a brilliant soldier but he maintains a solid position with party leaders. He has been offered an appointment in Prague but prefers to remain at Karlovy Vary.
2. The administration of the purge has been handled by the X Department (Personnel) of the Ministry of National Defense. This department took over the functions of the former individual personnel sections which were contained in the other nine departments of the ministry. Names of persons to be purged are submitted for approval by the X Department to the Army Advisory Council (APS), which in practice approves all recommendations. Most purges are effectuated by retiring

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such persons, by transferring them to the reserve, or by placing them in less sensitive jobs. Some of the leading personalities in X Department are:

- a. General Bedrich Reicin is Department Chief.
  - b. Colonel Bor (alias Bondy) of the JAC Department is the legal adviser. Of Jewish faith, he is 42 years old and was a lieutenant colonel in 1947.
  - c. Colonel Ladislav Chodil, an artillery officer, 47 years old, is Chief of the 1st Section. His section has jurisdiction over the infantry, artillery, and other combat arms of service. Chodil entered the X Department as an OBZ officer and became Reicin's adviser and deputy.
  - d. Colonel Josef Miksicek, an artillery officer, 48 years old, is Chief of the 2nd Section which has jurisdiction over the Army Services Forces.
  - e. Colonel Frantisek Bures, an officer of the General Staff Corps, 44 years old, is Chief of the 3rd Section (investigation). His section cooperates with G-5 in helping to weed out unreliable personnel.
  - f. Colonel Buhumir Mitsch is Chief of the 4th Section. The functions of this section are not known.
3. The following high-ranking officers have been purged:
- a. General Simon Drzac, Chief of the General Staff.
  - b. General Karol Klapalek, Commander of the 1st Military District.
  - c. General Vicherek, Air Force Commander.
  - d. General Kveton, Chief of Infantry of the General Staff.
  - e. General Bruno Zapletal, Chief of Logistics of the General Staff.
  - f. General Krivacek of the Ministry of National Defense.

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